

8 --22. A method of claim 1 in which the amount of interferon is from about 71.4 IU/kg/day to about  $2.9 \times 10^4$  IU/kg/day of interferon.

D1 5 --23. A method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said administering step comprises bringing said interferon into contact with the mucosa lining the mouth and/or throat of the mammal being treated.

--24. A composition in accordance with claim 15, in the form of a liquid, syrup, lozenge, or buccal tablet.--

Claim 2, line 1, replace "an" with --a systemic--;  
line 4, replace "IU" with --IU/day-- at both occurrences.

Claim 7 (amended), line 2, replace "IU/kg" with --IU/kg/day-- at both occurrences.

Claim 8 (amended), line 2, replace "IU/kg" with --IU/kg/day-- at both occurrences

Rewrite claim 15 in twice-amended form as follows:

D2 15 (Twice-amended). Interferon composition in unit dosage form to stimulate host defense mechanisms in a mammal which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of the interferon, and a vehicle or excipient which facilitates contact with the mucosa lining the mouth or throat upon administration [adapted for oromucosal contact], said amount being from about 1500 IU to about  $20 \times 10^6$  IU, provided said